

MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

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Michigan Employment
Security Commission

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

The Michigan unemployment rate fell by one and three-tenths of a percentage point as the jobless rate dropped from 11.0 percent in March to 9.7 percent in April. The rate decline represents 74,000 fewer individuals out of work, as total local residents seeking employment contracted to 434,000. The drop in joblessness was primarily a result of state-wide decline in the labor force. Total employment in April registered a fall as the number of employed area residents receded by 48,000 to reach 4,065,000. Additionally, the civilian labor force shrunk to 4,499,000, a loss of 122,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has sagged by 71,000, while the size of the labor force has increased by 52,000. In April 1990, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 311,000, representing an unemployment rate of 7.0 percent.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT STARTS TO RECOVER

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan increased as industry jobs advanced to 3,843,000 in April. Employment opportunities expanded by approximately 21,000 as gains were centered in both the goods producing and service producing sectors of the economy. Total employment in the goods producing industries rose by 15,000 primarily as a result of seasonal increases in construction, followed by scattered recalls in the automotive industry. Service producing employment climbed by 7,000 to 2,842,000 in April, as the retail trade and the services industries adequately compensated for seasonal declines in local government. Public sector positions dropped by 9,000 as local schools were temporarily closed for spring vacation. Since April 1990, industry employment in Michigan has decreased by 102,000 positions or 2.6 percent. Approximately 93,000 goods producing jobs have been lost throughout the year, while service producing employment shrunk by 9,000.



Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

ITEM	APR 1991	MAR 1991	FEB 1991	APR 1990
PLACE OF RESIDENCE *				
Civilian Labor Force	4499	4621	4539	4447
Employment	4065	4113	4074	4136
Unemployment	434	508	465	311
Rate	9.7	11.0	10.2	7.0
PLACE OF WORK *				
Wage and Salary Employment	3843	3822	3832	3945
Goods Producing Industries	1001	986	1001	1094
Construction	120	111	112	132
Manufacturing	872	866	880	952
Durable Goods	650	645	658	719
Lumber and Wood Products	14	14	14	15
Furniture and Fixtures	35	35	35	35
Stone, Clay and Glass	16	16	15	17
Primary Metals	38	39	38	43
Fabricated Metals	107	105	105	122
Industrial Machinery	120	121	123	127
Electrical Machinery	30	29	30	33
Transportation Equipment	266	262	271	302
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	250	246	255	285
Nondurable Goods	222	221	222	233
Food and Kindred Products	42	41	43	43
Textiles and Apparel	19	18	17	21
Paper and Allied Products	21	21	21	21
Printing and Publishing	44	44	44	45
Chemicals and Allied Products	45	45	45	44
Rubber and Misc. Plastics	47	47	47	53
Service Producing Industries	2842	2835	2831	2851
Trans., Comm. and Utilities	151	150	151	155
Wholesale Trade	193	193	194	198
Durable Goods	121	122	123	127
Nondurable Goods	72	71	71	71
Retail Trade	721	715	716	733
General Merchandise Stores	105	107	111	114
Food Stores	105	104	105	104
Auto. Dealers and Serv. Stns.	77	76	76	79
Apparel and Access. Stores	38	39	38	40
Eating and Drinking Places	255	251	249	254
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	192	191	191	189
Services	945	935	932	932
Hotels and Lodging Places	33	33	33	33
Personal Services	43	43	43	42
Business Services	171	168	169	173
Health Services	311	311	309	302
Social Services	64	64	64	61
Government	641	650	647	644
Federal	58	58	58	64
State	173	174	175	171
Local	410	419	415	408
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 1989 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the cooperative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program - March 1989 Benchmark.

Suppressed data included in: X=Totals, A=Other Durable Goods, B=Other Nondurable Goods. Due to the suppression of data, the industry estimates do not sum to the total wage and salary estimate.

* DATA IS IN THOUSANDS

CLAIMS ACTIVITY

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits decreased for the first time in seven months in April. The regular benefits claims load averaged 195,711 per week during the month, approximately 34,098 less than the March total.

The 14.8 percent decrease was primarily due to recalls in the automotive and auto related industries. In April 1990, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 129,835.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
April 06, 1991	235,900	200,300	35,600	89,900	75,400	14,500
April 13, 1991	250,900	213,700	37,200	104,300	89,200	15,100
April 20, 1991	237,700	196,800	40,900	98,100	81,600	16,500
April 27, 1991	224,300	182,600	41,700	90,100	73,300	16,800

DETROIT AREA COST OF LIVING DECREASES IN APRIL

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area decreased from 132.2 in February to 131.7 in April. The decrease in Detroit area prices was primarily due to lower costs for housing and medical care. Prices in the area climbed by 3.8 percent since April 1990, when the consumer price index stood at 126.9. At the national level, the cost of living advanced by one tenth of a percent to reach 135.2 during the month.

The higher national prices were due to additional costs for apparel and upkeep. Between April 1990 and April 1991, national consumer prices increased by 4.9 percent. One year ago, the national index registered 128.9. Note: Beginning in January 1987, the Consumer Price Indexes were shifted to a new reference base year. All indexes expressed on a 1967=100, were rebased to 1982-1984=100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries increased to 40.7 hours in April. The increase occurred primarily as a result of additional hours worked by individuals in the auto related industries.

During the month average hourly earnings advanced by seven cents to \$14.17, while average weekly earnings increased by \$8.49 to total \$576.72. In April 1990, earnings averaged \$13.68 an hour or \$554.04 per week for a 40.5 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Hourly Earnings a/		
	Apr 1991	Mar 1991	Apr 1990	Apr 1991	Mar 1991	Apr 1990	Apr 1991	Mar 1991	Apr 1990
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	\$576.72	\$568.23	\$554.04	40.7	40.3	40.5	\$14.17	\$14.10	\$13.68
DURABLE GOODS	608.33	596.97	579.55	40.8	40.2	40.5	14.91	14.85	14.31
Primary Metal Products	609.41	596.90	615.71	40.9	39.9	41.8	14.90	14.96	14.73
Fabricated Metal Products	588.55	554.58	541.20	41.1	39.5	40.0	14.32	14.04	13.53
Industrial Machinery	586.45	592.14	548.27	42.1	42.6	41.1	13.93	13.90	13.34
Electrical Machinery	454.73	458.59	447.08	39.1	39.5	39.6	11.63	11.61	11.29
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	728.28	720.20	682.49	40.8	40.1	40.6	17.95	17.96	16.81
NONDURABLE GOODS	481.58	479.17	469.45	40.3	40.3	40.4	11.95	11.89	11.62
Construction	592.78	582.30	551.92	36.3	35.9	35.7	16.33	16.22	15.46
Department Stores	187.20	180.31	192.79	25.4	24.7	27.9	7.37	7.30	6.91

a/ Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.

Note: Current month data are preliminary.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
APRIL 1991 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	124,727,000	116,678,000	8,049,000	6.5
Michigan	4,499,000	4,065,000	434,000	9.7
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	162,500	152,400	10,100	6.2
Battle Creek MSA	63,800	58,100	5,600	8.8
Benton Harbor MSA	77,100	69,800	7,300	9.5
Detroit MSA	2,089,000	1,889,000	200,000	9.6
Flint MSA	187,700	161,100	26,600	14.2
Grand Rapids MSA	374,200	346,900	27,300	7.3
Jackson MSA	64,400	57,700	6,800	10.5
Kalamazoo MSA	118,600	111,300	7,400	6.2
Lansing MSA	237,900	223,200	14,700	6.2
Muskegon MSA	67,700	59,500	8,200	12.2
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	185,400	167,600	17,800	9.6
Upper Peninsula LMA	137,700	120,800	16,900	12.3
Major Counties (18,000+)				
Allegan	59,125	55,100	4,025	6.8
Barry	24,300	22,175	2,125	8.8
Bay	53,275	48,050	5,225	9.8
Cass	22,775	20,625	2,150	9.5
Clinton	30,750	28,525	2,250	7.3
Eaton	52,675	49,550	3,125	5.9
Grand Traverse	35,325	31,875	3,425	9.7
Gratiot	20,100	18,050	2,050	10.2
Hillsdale	20,225	17,675	2,525	12.5
Ingham	154,500	145,175	9,325	6.0
Ionia	20,175	17,350	2,825	14.0
Isabella	31,550	29,475	2,075	6.6
Kent	273,125	252,825	20,275	7.4
Lapeer	34,000	29,250	4,750	14.0
Lenawee	43,700	38,825	4,875	11.1
Livingston	54,025	49,575	4,450	8.2
Macomb	365,600	329,975	35,625	9.7
Marquette	29,175	26,400	2,775	9.5
Midland	35,675	33,150	2,525	7.1
Monroe	63,375	56,175	7,200	11.4
Montcalm	25,675	22,450	3,225	12.5
Oakland	555,125	516,775	38,325	6.9
Ottawa	101,075	94,075	7,000	6.9
Saginaw	96,450	86,375	10,050	10.4
St. Clair	66,675	57,775	8,900	13.3
St. Joseph	26,525	23,500	3,025	11.4
Sanilac	20,225	17,275	2,975	14.6
Shiawassee	34,300	30,050	4,250	12.4
Tuscola	24,825	21,225	3,600	14.5
Van Buren	33,025	29,100	3,925	11.9
Wayne	949,825	849,450	100,375	10.6

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